

# Presquile

## National Wildlife Refuge

### Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex

### Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

#### Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator John W. Warner (R)  
Senator George F. Allen (R)  
Rep. Eric I. Cantor (R-7th)

#### Contact

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#### Profile

Established: 1953  
Current acres: 1,329  
Proposed total acres: 1,329  
Staff: 1/2  
FY 2002 budget: \$665,500\*  
2002 volunteer hours: 30  
2002 visitation: 50

\*Managed as the Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex, which includes James River, Rappahannock River Valley and Presquile NWRs.

#### Purpose

Presquile National Wildlife Refuge was established to provide habitat for wintering Canada geese, wood ducks, black ducks, mallards and other migratory birds.

#### Rappahannock River Valley NWR

#### James River NWR Presquile NWR

#### Public Use Notes

■ Visitation was suspended in 2002 due to unsafe access conditions. New access is under development.

#### Management Activities

- Manage the refuge to meet objectives of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative
- Annually host a prothonotary warbler study involving monitoring 283 nest boxes and banding 500 warblers
- Initiate invasive species control and prescribed burning program

#### Highlights

The island refuge is located within the Atlantic flyway, a major migratory corridor.

Prime wetland habitat on Presquile attracts 3,000 Canada geese and 1,000 ducks each year. Waterfowl winter on the refuge and use it during their migration north to Canada.

Wood ducks frequently nest along stream banks and in old-growth forested wetlands on the island.

Bald eagles nest and roost on the refuge.

#### Issues

Efforts to control invasive plants

Erosion of banks along the river

Safe transportation for visitors

Current staffing inadequate to conduct habitat management or public use activities

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**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
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